

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/998,397

Examiner

Tuan V. Thai

Applicant(s)

MAYFIELD, MICHAEL JOHN

Art Unit

2186

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 6/13/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17 renumbered as 1-4, 7-17 and 5-6 respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

TUAN V. THAI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit: 2186

Attorney's Docket No.: AUS920010809US1

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Michael J. Mayfield Group: 2186

Serial No.: 09/998,397 Examiner: Tuan Thai

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LIVELOCK PREVENTION IN A  
MULTIPROCESSOR SYSTEM.**

1. This action is responsive to amendment filed June 13, 2005.  
Claims 1-17 are now allowed.

**REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

2. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The prior art of record does not teach or suggest, alone or in combination, **all** the limitations of the amended claims of the current invention (claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 15), particularly an apparatus and method for preventing system resource and command conflicts in a multiprocessor system by issuing a processor command waiting to be selected for snooping; comparing an address of the processor command to addresses of all coherency blocks of prior snoop commands within a predetermined

Art Unit: 2186

time window; determining if the processor command and the prior snoop commands are non-pipelined; delaying sourcing of the processor command until the end of a second predetermined time window in response to the address of the processor command matching one or more of the addresses of the prior snoop command occurring within the predetermined time window, or in response to determining that the processor command is non-pipelined and one or more of the prior snoop commands occurring within the predetermined time window are non-pipelined. In light of the foregoing, claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 15 of the present application are found to be patentable over the prior arts.

Claims 2-4, 6-7, 10-11 and 13-17 further limit the indicated allowable independent claims. These claims are therefore allowable for the same reason as set forth above.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan V. Thai whose telephone number is (571)-272-4187. The examiner can normally be reached on from 6:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M..

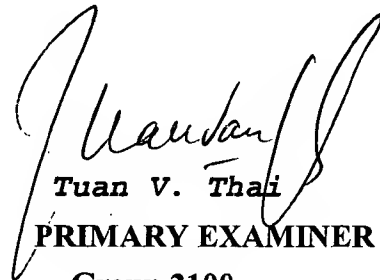
Application/Control Number: 09/998,397

-Page 4-

Art Unit: 2186

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mathew M. Kim can be reached on (571)-272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TVT/June 22, 2005

  
**Tuan V. Thai**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
**Group 2100**